

Patient Assessment

Maine EMS Integrated Practical Exam for EMT-Basic

Station #6 General Information

Objective:

Demonstrate patient assessment and intervention skills.

Equipment:

Station score sheets

- *Patient Assessment/Management – Trauma*
- *Patient Assessment/Management - Medical*

3 Hard cervical collars (S - M - L)

1 Paper and pen or pencil for use by student to jot notes

2 Heavy weight blankets (non- irritating)

1 Stethoscope

1 blood pressure cuffs

1 Penlight

1 Non re-breather O2 mask

1 Nasal cannula

Personnel:

Practical Test Assistant knowledgeable/proficient in Maine EMS standards for patient assessment

Programmed patient familiar with station scenarios

Procedure:

Patient will be dressed in a bathing suit or other attire allowing examination without further disrobing. The patient will be positioned according to the scenario used.

Scenarios

Practical Test Assistants are supplied with a selection of trauma and medical scenarios. The randomly selected scenario is read to the student. The Practical Test Assistant will not inform the student as to whether the scenario is “medical” or “trauma”

Practical Test Assistants will refer to the “Notes for Practical Test Assistants” section of the scenario for further patient information to be provided to the student by the Practical Test Assistant (or programmed patient, if appropriate) only after the student has performed that part of the assessment that would elicit such information. Practical Test Assistants will make note on the student’s skill sheet as to the scenario used.

The Practical Test Assistant must ensure that the programmed patient is aware of the scenario used before beginning the evaluation of a student and of the appropriate responses by the programmed patient when questioned or examined by the student.

Time

The time allowed for this station is 20 minutes. Start timing the student after all instructions and the scenario are explained and the student has indicated that he or she is ready to begin. Stop timing the station when the student indicates he or she has finished the skill. Do not count the time between each skill when explaining the scenario.

Skill Sheet Completion

The Practical Test Assistant will complete the following NREMT skill sheets as part of this station:

- Patient Assessment/Management - Trauma
- Patient Assessment/Management - Medical

To complete the skill sheet:

- Fill-in the “Start Time”, “Stop Time”, “Date”, Student’s Name “ (i.e. the student’s name) and “Evaluator’s Name” (i.e. the Practical Test Assistant’s Name)
- Fill-in the “Points Awarded” section of each skill task if the student completes the task. If the student fails to complete the task, enter “0” in the “Points Awarded” box
- Make a note at the bottom or on the reverse side of the sheet indicating why the point was not awarded for each task that the student fails to perform. The note should include what the student did or did not do and why the point was not awarded
- The “Critical Criteria” section of the skill sheet does not need to be completed.
- Add the “Points Awarded” on each of the skill sheets and note the total on the bottom of the sheet
- Sign the sheet at the bottom and return it to the assignment area coordinator as directed by the IC.
- Send the student back to the assignment area coordinator

Reminders

- ✓ Don't teach or lead students.
- ✓ Do not ask additional knowledge questions.
- ✓ Students are generally nervous. Please attempt to create a relaxed atmosphere.
- ✓ Students who make and correct mistakes on their own should not be penalized for the (self-corrected) mistake.

- ✓ All tasks that the student failed to perform must have a specific explanation written on the bottom or reverse of the skill sheet on which the task appears.

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Station #6 Practical Test Assistant Instructions

Introduction

1. Introduce yourself to the student.
2. Fill in the student and evaluator information on the exam skill sheet(s).
3. Read the following to the student (for station based exams):

"This is the patient assessment station. You are expected to assess and treat a patient with either a traumatic injury or a medical problem. Selection of the particular scenario for this station is done by random selection. All the equipment you need to manage the patient is available. You have crew members with you that you may direct to provide care, however you must perform all parts of the assessment."

You will have 20 minutes to complete this station. When you are ready to begin, please tell me and I will indicate that the exam has started and I will begin timing you. When you complete each skill, tell me that you are finished. I will notify you when you have no other skills to perform at this station. At that time, I will grade your skill sheet and return it to you. You'll then return it to the Rotation Board Coordinator."

(Note for Practical Test Assistants: If the student does not tell you that he or she is finished performing a skill, after a reasonable time ask the student "Have you finished performing the skill". Do not ask such questions as "Is there anything else you'd like to do" or "Are you sure you've completed all of the tasks?" Once the student indicates that he or she has completed the skill, move onto the next skill or, if the student has had the opportunity to perform all of the required skills, inform the student that the skill station has concluded, grade the student using the skill sheet, return the skill sheet to the student, and ask him or her to return the skill sheet immediately to the assignment area coordinator.)

4. Read the student the scenario that has been randomly selected, and use the appropriate skill sheet for evaluation.
5. Skills required in the initial assessment phase must be done prior to the student beginning the detailed physical exam in order for credit to be given for performing the specific skill.

If the student finishes the vital signs or completes something they missed in the detailed physical exam prior to indicating that he or she has finished the station, the student will still receive credit for it so long as the patient has not been compromised. An example of a compromised patient would be when the student performs the detailed physical exam in a trauma scenario and fails to ensure manual cervical immobilization prior to the collar being applied. If however, the student completes the detailed physical exam before application of the cervical collar and has ensured manual immobilization prior to the application of the collar, credit will be given for performing the skill.

6. Observe the student's performance carefully.
7. For each scoring area, mark through the appropriate box, yes or no. If you check any no, a specific explanation must be written in the comment area.
8. Sign the sheet at the bottom and return it to the assignment area coordinator as directed by the IC.
9. Send the student back to the assignment area coordinator.

Patient Assessment Scenarios For Trauma and Medical Assessment Stations

Trauma Scenario 1:

Read the following to the student:

“You are called to the scene of a motor vehicle accident where you find a victim who was thrown from the vehicle. There is severe damage to the front end of the vehicle. The 30 year old victim is found lying in a field approximately 30 feet from the car.”

Notes for Practical Test Assistant and Programmed Patient:

The patient:

- Responds to verbal stimuli;
- Complains of difficulty breathing
- Complains of abdominal pain.

The programmed patient may attempt to answer SAMPLE questions based upon:

- No allergies;
- No meds and;
- No past medical history.

The programmed patient is able to answer questions regarding SAMPLE history, but is disoriented.

The Practical Test Assistant will inform the student of the following signs only when the student has performed the skill that would have provided this information:

- ✓ Skin is pale
- ✓ Patient is experiencing respiratory distress
- ✓ Capillary refill is delayed
- ✓ Carotid pulse is 140, when counted, or "rapid" when quickly checked
- ✓ Radial pulses are bilaterally absent
- ✓ B/P is 72/60
- ✓ Respiratory rate is 28
- ✓ Breath sounds are decreased on the left side
- ✓ No external bleeding is noted
- ✓ Cardiac Rhythm – Sinus tachycardia
- ✓ Movement in all extremities

Other signs are as the student observes them. Student should use treatment equipment present and state other treatments he or she would provide.

Trauma Scenario 2:

Read the following to the student:

“You arrive on the scene in the ambulance and find an 18 year old patient lying on the ground in the supine position. Bystanders indicate that they saw the patient fall out of a second story window.”

Notes for Practical Test Assistant:

The patient:

- Responds to verbal stimuli;
- Complains of severe chest discomfort;

The programmed patient is disoriented and SAMPLE information is jumbled.

The programmed patient may attempt to answer SAMPLE questions based upon:

- No allergies;
- No meds and;
- No past medical history.

The Practical Test Assistant will inform the student of the following signs only when the student has performed the skill that would have provided this information:

- ✓ Skin is cyanotic and moist
- ✓ Patient is experiencing respiratory distress with unequal chest rise
- ✓ Decreased breath sounds on the left side
- ✓ Capillary refill is delayed
- ✓ Carotid pulse is 138 when counted or rapid when quickly checked
- ✓ Radial pulse is absent
- ✓ B/P is 69/54
- ✓ Respiratory rate is 28
- ✓ No external bleeding is noted
- ✓ Cardiac Rhythm – Sinus tachycardia
- ✓ Movement in all extremities

Other signs are as the student observes them. Student should use treatment equipment present and state other treatments he or she would provide.

Trauma Scenario 3:

Read the following to the student:

“You pull up to a sidewalk in the ambulance and find a 50 year old patient lying on the ground.”

Notes for Practical Test Assistant:

The patient:

- Responds to verbal stimuli;
- Complains of pain in forehead and neck.

The programmed patient may attempt to answer SAMPLE questions based upon:

- ✓ No allergies;
- ✓ No meds and;
- ✓ No past medical history
- ✓ Last oral intake 2 beers-1 hour ago;
- ✓ History of Present illness – slipped and fell
- ✓ Onset- patient explains he was walking on the ice and slipped;
- ✓ Patient denies Loss of consciousness;
- ✓ Provocation- hurts to move neck;
- ✓ Quality of pain sharp;
- ✓ Radiation of pain- left leg up to the knee;
- ✓ Severity of the pain- 6/10;
- ✓ Time since onset- 20 minutes.

The Practical Test Assistant will inform the student of the following signs only when the student has performed the skill that would have provided this information:

- ✓ Skin is warm and dry
- ✓ The patient has no respiratory distress
- ✓ Capillary refill is delayed in injured extremity
- ✓ The radial pulse is 90 when counted or normal when quickly checked
- ✓ That the B/P is 128/84
- ✓ Respiratory rate is 20
- ✓ Pupillary Response - PEARL
- ✓ No external bleeding is noted
- ✓ Cardiac Rhythm – Sinus tachycardia
- ✓ Movement in all extremities

Other signs are as the student observes them. Student should use treatment equipment present and state other treatments he or she would provide.

Trauma Scenario 4:

Read the following to the student:

“Your ambulance crew is called to respond to a 45 year old person who has fallen off of a garage roof that appears to be about 10 feet tall. The patient’s companion is with the patient. For the purposes of this scenario, I will act as the patient’s companion.”

Notes for Practical Test Assistant:

The patient:

- Responds to painful stimulus;
- Is unable to verbalize a chief complaint

The companion may answer SAMPLE questions based upon:

- ✓ No allergies;
- ✓ Takes medications for vertigo;
- ✓ Past medical history of motor vehicle accident one week ago;
- ✓ Last oral intake 1 hour ago – sandwich and a glass of milk;
- ✓ Events leading to current injury-patient was working on the roof and became dizzy and fell to the ground;
- ✓ Onset- unknown;
- ✓ Provocation-unknown;
- ✓ Quality-unknown;
- ✓ Radiation of pain- unknown;
- ✓ Severity of the pain- Unknown;
- ✓ Time since onset- 20 minutes.

The Practical Test Assistant will inform the student of the following signs only when the student has performed the skill which would have provided this information:

- ✓ Skin is cool and moist
- ✓ The patient has no respiratory distress
- ✓ Capillary refill normal
- ✓ The radial pulse is 110 when counted or rapid when quickly checked
- ✓ That the B/P is 128/84
- ✓ Respiratory rate is 28
- ✓ Pupils - PEARL
- ✓ No external bleeding is noted
- ✓ Cardiac Rhythm – Sinus tachycardia
- ✓ Movement in all extremities

Other signs are as the student observes them. Student should use treatment equipment present and state other treatments he or she would provide.

Medical Scenario 1

Read the following to the student:

“You arrive on the scene of a single-family residence in your ambulance. The 62 year old patient is found seated on a chair holding his (her) chest.”

Notes for Practical Test Assistant:

The patient responds to verbal stimuli and is able to answer questions regarding SAMPLE history:

- Chief Complaint - difficulty breathing and chest pain.
- Onset-fifteen minutes ago;
- Provocation-mowing the lawn;
- Quality- sharp sticking;
- Radiation- left arm and jaw;
- Severity worse pain ever felt;
- Time since onset- 25 minutes;
- No allergies
- No medications
- No past medical history;
- Last oral intake was 1 hour ago;
- Events leading up to current condition, patient was mowing the lawn.

The Practical Test Assistant will inform the student of the following signs only when the student has performed the skill that would have provided this information:

- Skin is cool and clammy
- Patient is experiencing respiratory distress
- Delayed capillary refill
- Radial pulse is 70 and irregular, when counted, or "normal rate and irregular" when quickly checked
- B/P is 170/92
- Respiratory rate is 26
- “Crackles” are present in both lung fields
- No external bleeding is noted
- Cardiac Rhythm – Sinus rhythm with occasional unifocal pvc

Other signs are as the student observes them. Student should use treatment equipment present and state other treatments he or she would provide.

Medical Scenario 2

Read the following to the student:

“You arrive at the local playground in your ambulance. You find the 22 year old patient sitting on the ground.”

Notes for Practical Test Assistant

The patient responds to verbal stimuli and is able to answer questions regarding SAMPLE history:

- Chief Complaint - severe chest pain, dyspnea, dizziness and left calf pain;
- Onset-stung by something;
- Provocation-none;
- Quality- sharp sticking pain all over;
- Radiation - all over;
- Severity 10/10;
- Time since onset-10 minutes;
- Allergies to bee stings;
- Medications - Epi-pen;
- Pertinent past medical history-almost died the last time stung;
- Last oral intake- 30 minutes ago;
- Events leading up to incident- playing soccer with friends.

The Practical Test Assistant will inform the student of the following signs only when the student has performed the skill which would have provided this information:

- Skin is cool, damp and clammy with red blotches
- Labored breathing
- Capillary refill delayed
- Radial pulse is absent
- Carotid pulse is rapid and weak, rate is 140
- B/P 70/52
- Respiratory rate is 32
- Lung sounds are decreased bilaterally and have wheezes
- No external bleeding
- Cardiac Rhythm – Sinus tachycardia
- Movement in all extremities

Other signs are as the student observes them. Student should use treatment equipment present and state other treatments he or she would provide.

Medical Scenario 3

Read the following to the student:

“You arrive at a residence in the ambulance and find a 29 year old patient sitting on the sofa.

Notes for Practical Test Assistant:

The patient:

- Responds to verbal stimuli;
- Complains of difficulty breathing and has two word dyspnea

The programmed patient may attempt to answer SAMPLE questions based upon:

- Onset-1 hour ago;
- Provocation-working outside;
- Quality- N/A;
- Radiation-None;
- Severity-Worst it has ever been 10/10;
- Time since onset-1 hour;
- Allergies-none;
- Medications - for Asthma;
- Pertinent past medical history-Asthma;
- Last oral intake- 2 hours ago, Events leading up to incident- patient came in from working in the yard.

The Practical Test Assistant will inform the student of the following signs only when the student has performed the skill that would have provided this information:

- Skin is pale and dry
- Obvious Shortness of Breath
- Capillary refill normal
- Radial pulse is 100 strong
- B/P 140/86
- Respiratory rate is 26
- Lung sounds have wheezes in all fields
- Cardiac Rhythm – Sinus tachycardia
- No external bleeding

Other signs are as the student observes them. Student should use treatment equipment present and state other treatments he or she would provide.

Medical Scenario 4

Read the following to the student:

“You arrive at a local residence in the ambulance and find a 67 year old patient sitting in a chair outside. It is a hot humid day.”

Notes for Practical Test Assistant:

The patient:

- Is responsive to verbal stimulus;
- Complains of feeling weak and dizzy;
- Complains of abdominal pain.

The programmed patient may attempt to answer SAMPLE questions based upon:

- Onset-Patient was digging post holes;
- Provocation-is not any better since I sat down;
- Quality-None;
- Radiation-None;
- Severity-N/A;
- Time since onset-30 minutes;
- Allergies-None;
- Medications- Insulin (took this AM);
- Pertinent past medical history-Insulin Dependant Diabetic and Asthma;
- Last oral intake- 10 minutes ago (drank a glass of water and skipped lunch);
- Events leading up to incident- patient states he was digging postholes in the yard for 3 hours.

The Practical Test Assistant will inform the student of the following signs only when the student has performed the skill that would have provided this information:

- Skin is pale and moist, clothing is wet
- Capillary refill normal
- Radial pulse is 110 strong
- B/P 140/90
- Respiratory rate is 26
- Lung sounds are clear bilaterally
- Pupillary Response – PEARL
- No external bleeding
- Cardiac Rhythm – Normal Sinus

Other signs are as the student observes them. Student should use treatment equipment present and state other treatments he or she would provide.